2010 CENSUS – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ISSUE

Property managers may be asked to provide information to U.S. Census workers who are collecting information for the 2010 Census. Property managers may be concerned about what type of information is permissible for them to provide to Census workers.

HUD, through its listserv for the Multifamily Housing RHIIP (Rental Housing Integrity Improvement Program), provided the following information:

What information can be provided to census takers?[1]

In March 2010, census takers began going to addresses across the country to count the population and to collect information for the 2010 Census.

Census takers are required to contact occupied apartments themselves; however, if an apartment is vacant or if the census taker is unable to contact the tenant, the census taker is instructed to ask an apartment owner/manager to answer a few short questions about the apartment (e.g. who was occupying the unit on April 1, 2010), as well as provide the name and phone number of the apartment owner/manager in the event that the Census Bureau needed to ask any follow-up questions.

In accordance with 13 USC 223 … owners and/or managers of Multifamily Housing properties **must provide census takers with the names of tenants residing in their property** when requested by a census taker. If the census taker needs information past the names of the tenants, they should request this information from HUD. Because there are no Privacy Act implications, owners and/or managers could also provide information on what units were vacant. Property owners/managers are not authorized to disclose additional information.

In addition, Contract Administrators (CAs) of HUD Multifamily programs must not provide any tenant information to census takers. If contacted, CAs should refer the census taker to the owner or manager of the property.

If you would like to sign-up for HUD's listserv, please go to the following website: http://www.hug.gov/subscribe/mailinglist.cfm

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[1] This information was copied from RHIIP Listserv Posting #230